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ABSTRACT

This activity unit tells the story of Prince Rama from the Hindu legend, "Ramayana." The story is retold in language appropriate to grades 5-7. Accompanying activities include: (1) "Reviewing Familiar Myths"; (2) "Developing Skills Through Literature", which includes activities on character and symbolism, values and themes, and protagonist vs. antagonist; and (3) "Developing Skills Through Theme Projects," including a project on "Bringing India to Life" and one called "Create a Comic Book Hero." (EH)

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ED 401 165

CURRICULUM PROJECTS DEVELOPED
by
1995 SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS

The Story of Prince Rama

adapted from the *Ramayana*

A Study Unit
Grades 5-7

Retold
by
Charlotte N. Byrd

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The Fulbright Experience
1995

The Story of Prince Rama

from the *Ramyana*
as Retold by Charlotte Byrd

A long time ago to the north of the river Ganga lay the kingdom of Kosala, peaceful, prosperous and rich in gold. The capital city of Ayodhya was one of the most beautiful cities in the land. The kingdom was wisely ruled by King Dashratha with the help of learned ministers and priests who were well-versed in the scriptures.

King Dashratha had three wives, each of whom had sons. The boys were named Rama, Bharata, and the twins Lakshmana and Shatrughana Rama was the favorite of the king for it was told to him by wise men that Rama would destroy Ravana, King of the Demons. Ravana and his *rakshasas* had been oppressing the three worlds, heaven, earth and *nether* regions. The lesser gods had turned to Lord Vishnu, Preserver and Restorer of Life, to restore the rule of righteousness to the earth. For this reason had the sons been born to Dashratha, for only a man could destroy the wicked Ravana.

Rama, Lakshmana, Shatrughana, and Bharata grew up as brave and *virtuous* princes, skilled in the *martial arts*, and schooled in the *Vedas*. Rama, as the eldest, was also the wisest, the most obedient, and the most generous. Both his father and all the people adored him.

Rama's Test

One day a holy man came to the king. "I need your son Rama," he said. "There are two powerful demons who daily *defile* a sacrifice that I am performing in the forest. They show ered the sacred fire with flesh and blood. I could destroy them myself, but it is not proper to curse anyone at the time of sacrifice. Send warlike Rama to me. He will be able to kill the rakshasas and earn fame and glory for himself in the three worlds"

" I am afraid for my son," said the king.

"Do not fear, great king. No harm will come to Rama for the past, present, and future is known to me."

So the young prince Rama and his brother and constant companion Lakshmana set out with the holy man for their first adventure. Glowing like the morning sun they set out to confront the forces of darkness. Soon they entered the Dandaka forest. Dark, dense and dangerous, the forest was a home of a wicked and ferocious rakshasi named Tadaka. She was huge and hairy, her red teeth were pointy. The claws on her hands and feet were stained with the blood of the peasants that she had terrorized. Her strength was the strength of a thousand elephants.

Rama raised his bow and twanged the bowstring until it resounded in the forest. In the forest the lesser demons shuddered, but the Tadaka heard the challenge of Rama's bow. She tore trees from the earth and then flew into the air and hurled the trees at the brothers. New at the art of war, Rama shot his arrows merely attempting to wound her.

"Kill her," shouted the wise man, "or she will destroy you. Night is coming and her strength will double."

Rama aimed his arrow at her breast and the rakshasi crashed to the earth with such force that the tremors were heard by King Dasharatha in his palace in capital city of Ayodhya.

Rama and the Celestial Weapons

"It is time to teach Rama the use of celestial weapons," said the gods to the wise man. So the wise man along with Rama and Lakshmana retired to his *ashrama*. There the holy man faced east in *meditation* and prayed. One by one the weapons of the gods appeared before Rama, acknowledging him as their master. One night, soon after Rama had received these wonderful weapons from the gods, the sky darkened as an army of rakshasa appeared to destroy Rama and the *ashrama*. With the celestial weapons, Rama hurled the demons far over the mountains. The two princes destroyed the entire rakshasa army.

"Thanks to you," the holy man said, " the woods are now again a safe retreat. Now my priests and I are able to complete our sacrifices without fear. Come with me tomorrow to visit Raja Janaka. Here is a wondrous thing for you to see."

Rama and the Great Bow

King Janaka, like his friend Dashratha, also had been childless for many years. Obedient and holy, he and his wife had prayed every day for a child. One day, while ploughing a piece of land in preparation of sacrifice, Janaka found a beautiful baby girl in a furrow. He took her home to his wife and named her Sita, which means furrow. Janaka and his wife loved and cherished Sita as if she were their own daughter. Happily, other children followed, but Sita remained the favorite of the king.

Sita grew up as beautiful as a spring morning, as fresh as a mountain spring, as loving as earth mother. Her figure was tall and splendid and wherever she strode, young warriors were smitten by her *extraordinary* beauty. To wed her to an ordinary *mortal* was unthinkable for King Janaka.

"I decree," he declared, "that only the man who can string the great bow gifted by the gods to my forefathers may marry my daughter." For some years after, many young, strong warriors came to the palace to win the hand of Sita, but none could bend the sacred bow.

Rama and Lakshmana arrived early one morning and King Janaka welcomed the sons of his good friend. At their request, the great bow was brought out before them. It lay in an iron case on an eight-wheeled carriage drawn by more than one hundred strong white oxen. Rama opened the case, lifted the bow, and bent the bow to string it. With a resounding crack, the weapon broke in two. At that moment, showers of flowers fell from heaven to celebrate the mighty deed.

As he had promised, Raja Janaka gave his beloved daughter to Rama. "Devoted and *chaste*, she will go with you wherever you go," he said.

At the same time, Lakshmana was married to Sita's sister Urmilla, and Shatrughana and Bharata married the daughters of Raja Janaka's younger brother.

Happily, the four brothers and their new wives formed a large retinue which wound along the river's edge. Suddenly, a fierce storm began to crash around them and from a dark thunder cloud swooped the sage Parasuama armed with a battle axe and a bow exactly lie the one Rama had strung

and broken in Raja Janaka's court. The sage was said to be the sixth *avatara* of Vishnu and the bow he held was the bow of Lord Vishnu.

"I challenge you to prove your strength by stringing this bow," he said.

Again Rama strung the mighty bow with ease. And with great reverence, Parasurama acknowledged the *divinity* of the young prince Rama.

"The bow is yours," he said to Rama, "Use it for justice and for the good of the kingdom."

Rama was so happy, that he forgot that he was to fight Ravana, the King of all demons.

Ravana's Sister

Ravana's sister did not have ten heads and ten arms like her brother, but she was truly ugly. She was a giant with sparse hair on her head. Her eyes were blood-red and her nose pig-snouted. Because she had an enormous appetite, her belly was huge protruding in front of her. That was her natural shape, but like most demons, she could change herself into any thing at all.

Ravana's sister had seen Rama and thought he was as handsome as a young lion.

"He is obviously a prince," she thought. "I want to marry him. I will trick him into becoming my husband." And she changed herself into a beautiful, young princess and came one morning to the garden of the palace to meet Rama.

"Come with me," she said in enchanting tones. "Marry me and I will make you the happiest and richest man in the world." But to no avail. Her words had no affect on Rama.

"Sita is a horrible wife to you. She is not faithful and you must send her back to her own land and marry me instead."

Rama became very angry and shouted, "Leave me in peace." But she would not stop.

"My dear brother is very powerful. He will make the rakshasa wait on you forever." Rama suddenly knew at once that the beautiful young princess was really a demon in disguise. He turned his back on her. In shame, she ran off into the forest, and as she ran, her body again took on the shape of the ugly demon. She vowed vengeance.

The Vengeance of Ravana's Sister

That night Ravana's horrible sister laid her plans. She would kidnap Sita. Then she could get Rama to marry her.

After waiting for some time outside of the little house in the forest where Sita and Rama lived happily, Ravana's sister saw Sita going into the forest to collect flowers. Ravana's sister followed her,

hiding behind the bushes and the trees. Lakshmana, sent to guard Sita, suddenly noticed what was happening and jumped on Ravana's sister just as she was about to grab Sita.

Ravana's sister was enraged. Lakshmana was forced to fight the demon. She was strong and powerful. She fought with tooth and nail and Lakshmana fought long and hard. In the struggle, with one huge blow of his mighty sword, Lakshmana cut off her nose and ears.

Howling in pain, Ravana's sister ran to her brother's palace. "You must send your rakshasa, dear brother, to kill them all," she begged. "Rama will never willingly leave Sita. She is far too beautiful."

"You shall be avenged," shouted Ravana. "I will destroy them with my power." Secretly Ravana was mush intrigued with the stories he had heard of Sita's beauty. Although he had many wives, he had been thinking of obtaining a new one for some time and Sita sounded like just the one for him.

Ravana got together his huge rakshasa army. He set his Demon Warrior in charge of fourteen Demon Warlords. Armed with their forks, swords, and battle-axes and spears they attacked Rama and Lakshmana. The battle lasted for seven days and seven nights and at the end of it there were fourteen thousand dead demons. Those that were alive fled in terror.

Ravana's Magic

Ravana was distraught with anger at his sister's report of the defeat of his great army. Secure in the gift of *invincibility* that he had gotten from *Lord Brahma*, Ravana thought himself *immor tal*. Truly he was great in valor. But also great was his adharma (his straying from the path of righteousness). He had become so proud that he now was a law only unto himself.

"Who has dared to do such a thing to me?" he thundered. "Who has dared to injure you and kill my demons? Was it the God of death, Yama? Tell me for I can destroy Death. Was it Agni, the god of Fire? I will burn him until he is nothing but ashes."

"It was no god," croaked his sister. "It was just two men--Rama and Lakshmana. Lakshmana attacked me and Rama killed our soldiers single-handed." She described the power of Rama and at the same time Sita's matchless beauty. She dwelled on Sita's perfection face, her fullness and grace of body.

"I was assaulted while trying to carry her off for you," she lied. "She is worthy of you only, great king. Rama's wife is more beautiful than any goddess. Make Sita your queen. Make Sita yours. That will be the best revenge you can have on Rama and Lakshmana."

Ravana, the King of Demons, could get no rest. At night he tossed and turned. He could not get Sita's beautiful vision out of his thoughts. His head buzzed with wicked thoughts about her.

He dreamed of her day and night. In his misery he stopped the seasons, the hours of the day. Nothing worked. He was haunted by the thoughts of the beautiful girl who was not his. He knew he could not beat Rama and Lakshmana with just his power, so he decided to trick them by using treachery and magic.

"You cannot challenge the immensity of Rama's power," said an uncle to Ravana. Return to Lanka and live at peace with your own wives. Leave Rama and Sita to live at peace in the forest."

But lust, anger and false pride blinded the *rakshasa* king.

The next morning as Sita and Rama were taking a walk through the forest Sita saw a beautiful

fawn leaping through the grass. It was the most wonderful thing she had ever seen.

"Dear Rama, I must have it for a pet," she cried.

"I will catch this bewitching thing for you," Rama promised as he followed the fawn into the deep forest. The fawn led him further and further into the woods. Quite suddenly, Rama realized that it was a trap. He drew his bow and shot an arrow at the fawn. As it fell, it called for help in Rama's own voice and then returned to its true shape--that of a large rakshasa.

Far away, back at the house, Lakshmana and Sita heard Rama's voice cry out in distress. Lakshmana suspected a trick, because he knew that only a mighty force could harm Rama, but Sita begged him to find Rama and go to his aid.

The moment Lakshmana left the house, Ravana, the King of all demons changed himself into a old beggarman and knocked on Sita's door.

Sita's Capture

When Sita opened the door, she saw an old beggar standing there. "Come in," she said. "I will make you some breakfast." Having gained entrance to the house, Ravana changed back to his shape with ten heads and twenty arms. Ravana seized Sita and dragged her by the hair to his hidden chariot.

"Forget Rama. You will never see him again. Be mine."

"All creatures of the forest," she cried out, "tell Rama of my fate." Sita struggled and wept in vain. But only one creature saw Ravana and Sita--the vulture king Jatayu. Jatayu was the son of the mighty man-bird Garuda, Lord Vishnu's charger. Jatayu attacked. His wings beat so strong they made windstorms. The old vulture fought valiantly with beak and claw. Ravana seized a weapon in all twenty of his hands and slashing at the valiant bird. The vulture crashed into the chariot and Ravana dealt him a death blow with a cruel stroke to the throat. Dying, Jatayu plummeted to the earth.

Weeping for the heroic bird, Sita let fall her jeweled anklets, necklace, and other ornaments so that they dropped from the sky like meteors.

"Listen to me Sita," Ravana thundered. "I shall wait for twelve months. Yield yourself to me by then or die a horrible death."

Sita again cried out again for Rama, but to no avail. Ravana drove the chariot straight toward his home in Lanka.

The brothers searched and searched for Sita. Soon they came to the land of the monkey-people where the country was at war. The brothers helped to bring peace to the land. While there, they earned the allegiance of *Hanuman*, general of the monkey army, who vowed to serve Rama forever.

General Hanuman possessed great strength, intelligence and a will to succeed. As a monkey-child, he had been given power of movement. Once, as a child, he had soared into the sky to capture the sun, imagining it to be a delicious piece of fruit. To protect the sun, *Indra*, the king of the gods, hurled a thunderbolt. As Hanuman fell, he broke his jaw. Hanuman's father, the Wind God, was so enraged that he held his breath ceasing all motion in the three worlds till the other gods begged for breath and showered Hanuman with blessings. They gave him the gift of immortality. No weapon would destroy him. He would die only when he himself wished to die.

As a reward for Rama's and Lakshmana's help, General Hanuman led the entire monkey army, along with many bears, in search of Sita.

"We have seen Ravana carrying a beautiful woman in his grip," said a vulture holding out bright ornaments. "As she struggled in Ravana's arms, she threw these ornaments from the sky. He has taken her across the sea between India and Lanka."

"I am certain that this woman was Sita for these are her ornaments," said Rama collecting the jewelry in his arms.

"Ravana does not deserve to live. He has violated the eternal principles of righteousness by giving way to his rage and lust. I will go ahead to look for Sita," said Hanuman as he leaped over the sea to find Ravana's palace.

Hanuman soon found the palace and heard a voice behind a high garden wall singing a sad song. Leaping to the top of the wall he saw a young woman, tears streaming down her cheeks, but through them her beauty remained undimmed and Hanuman knew she was Sita, Rama's adored wife. As he approached Sita to talk to her, he was overcome by several demons who took him and threw him at the feet of Ravana.

"You must give up Sita and your evil ways, or Rama's army will destroy you and all the demons," Hanuman warned.

"I will gladly fight," raged Ravana, "but kill this insolent ape at once," Ravana roared.

"Patience my Lord," said one of the younger rakshasa. "It would be wrong to kill a messenger who is only conveying another's words."

"Then at least he must be punished," thundered Ravana. "Set fire to his tail and parade him through the streets of Lanka!" Grabbing Hanuman, the demons tied rags to Hanuman's tail and set it on fire.

Hanuman prayed to Agni, the Fire God, "If I am chaste, if I am pure of heart, then be kind to me." Suddenly the flames no longer scorched, but felt as cool as raindrops. Hanuman allowed himself to be dragged through the streets. His sharp eyes observed all the fortifications of the city for future reference. His task accomplished, he snapped his bonds, extended his burning tail, and set fire to building after building, until the whole of Lanka was in flames. Then he *doused* his flaming tail into the ocean and with tremendous speed flew back to his comrades.

The War

Meanwhile, back in Lanka, Ravana's ministers attempted to convince Ravana to give back Sita.

"The gods will be angry, for you have done wrong and stolen another man's wife. Give her back before it is too late," a brave minister said.

"You are all traitors," shouted Ravana.

"I opposed you for your own good," said the minister sadly. "But to be overtaken by sinful pride, so that you do not hear the good words of a friend, is truly sad." By the power of magic he flew across the ocean to seek shelter at the feet of Rama. Only four loyal demons went with him.

"Our army will easily beat the monkeys and the bears," said Ravana, "but I want to kill Rama and Lakshmana myself. We can protect ourselves with magic fire and we can use our magic to turn into poisonous snakes when they hit their targets."

Two or Ravana's spies rushed into the throne room. "We were captured and kept alive so that

Rama could show us his armies. He said that if we went back and told you how very powerful the monkeys and the bears are, and how great their army is, that you would stop the war, free Sita, and everyone would live in peace."

"This will never happen," shouted Ravana and he gave orders for the battle to begin. The demons army fought with weapons and used trickery whenever they could. They even made a dummy that looked exactly like Sita and carried it into the middle of the battle field. There they shot it full of arrows. When the monkeys saw this, they thought that Sita had been killed and they wept. Finding that this was only a trick, the monkey army was so angry that they attacked all the more fiercely.

That day was the first of many days of fighting. Soon Ravana could see that he was slowly losing the battle. So he made his son, a Demon Warlord, invisible and sent him into battle. Ravana gave him invisible weapons and wove a spell of invisible fire around him. So Ravana's son stormed out into the middle of the monkeys and the bears. Many brave soldiers were killed. No-one could see where the arrows came from, but they still fought bravely. The whole army soon lay dead or dying. Rama and Lakshmana ran back and forth to find the cause of the deaths until at last they too were struck down. No one was left unharmed but Hanuman.

"There is a cure," gasped a dying bear. "Go to the Himalaya Mountains and seek our four special herbs that grow there. They will disarm the invisible arrows. If you do it quickly, they will even bring the dead soldiers to life again."

Hanuman wasted no time. He crossed India to the mountains and lifted off the top of a mountain and flew back to Lanka with it. As soon as the mountain was near the battlefield, the anecdote began to work, restoring the army to life and health. Lakshmana suddenly saw Ravana's son. Climbing on Hanuman's shoulders, he reached out over the wall of fire and cut off his head.

Rama and Ravana

After the death of his son, Ravana could see the end was coming and that Rama's army was winning each battle and was winning the war. The only thing left for him to do was to fight Rama himself. He put on special armor to protect his ten heads and twenty arms.

So the two faced each other across the battle field. Ravana had ten bows in ten of his hands and notched ten arrows to the bows. He charged over the bloodstained earth. Releasing all his pent up hatred, Ravana unleashed shaft after shaft of devastating power. Rama countered each one.

Both were so skilled and so matched that each admired the prowess of the other, though each sought the other's death. The sun was blackened by the crisscross of flaming arrows. Each time a head was severed, Ravana grew another. Hundreds of his heads rolled in the dust, yet Ravana lived.

Suddenly a messenger from Brahma appeared. "Use this sacred weapon," he declared. There in his hand was a mighty sword, seeming to burn in its own bright light.

Ravana protected his head and his arms and body, but nothing guarded his evil heart. The arrow flew straight, piercing the heart and Ravana fell dead from his chariot. The crash shook the tree worlds. The war was over.

"Do not feel sad. Ravana died a hero's death. Comfort his queen and cremate him with honor," Rama said to Ravana's brother. "You are now the king of Lanka. Reign in peace."

Then he spoke to Hanuman. "Go to Sita. Tell her what has happened and escort her here."

Sita and Rama

Hanuman found Sita sitting pale and wan, surrounded by her guards. "It's all over. Ravana is dead," he said gently. Lord Rama awaits you." Sita heard the news with joy.

Adorned with fresh clothes and jewelry, Sita came before Rama. But Rama's face was harsh and his voice stern.

"I have done my duty and have killed the rakshasa king and freed you. But I cannot take you back as my wife. Too long have you lived under the protection of another. In the eyes of the world, your virtue is suspect."

Sita's heart was pierced by those words. "I have no reason to live," she cried out. Prepare my funeral *pyre*."

Sita approached the brightly burning funeral pyre and prayed to Agni, God of Fire. "If I am pure, protect me." A huge crowd watched her as she fearlessly entered the flames. Suddenly rays of bright light rose from the fire and out stepped glorious shining figures--Brahma, the creator of three worlds, Shiva, great lord of destruction, Indra, and other gods.

"Virtuous Rama, you destroyed evil on earth and have fulfilled your purpose. Return to Ayodhya with Sita. Fear not. She is pure and sinless. Rule the kingdom with your brothers."

The gods faded from sight and out of the flames stepped Sita--radiant and untouched by her ordeal. Rama opened his arms and welcomed her.

Rama ascended to the throne where his father had been king. The gods showered flowers on them in celebration. Sita sat beside him , his brothers near him, and his faithful Hanuman was at his feet.

Rama ruled for many years. During his reign sorrow and sin disappeared from the land. There was no hunger. It was a time of perfect peace, and holiness made earth like heaven for...

just a little time.

The End

(Until some other adventures begin.)

The Story of Prince Rama

adapted from the *Ramayana*

Reviewing Familiar Myths

Myths for All Times — Activity Card 1

Myths have been a part of every culture. Brainstorm and create a list the myths that you have already read. Place them in the appropriate columns.

American Indian	Greek and Roman	Scandinavian
	Perseus and Medusa	

Name_____Section_____

Teacher Notes for Activity 1: Students may do **Myths for All Times** individually, in groups, or as a class. The class can brainstorm on the board or on large sheets of paper. Students then can organize their personal readings and write them on their own card.

Myths and Magic — Activity Card 2

Although the myth may have originally been based on a real king or leader, retellings have embellished the tale with details and changes that make it take on qualities of the unbelievable. Some of the characters even have super-human characteristics. Choose your favorite myth (from activity 1) and then select a hero/heroine from one of the stories. List the "special abilities" that make the character unbelievable.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name_____Section_____

Teacher notes for Activity Card 2: Students can review some of the common motifs or patterns found in myths. Some of these are that characters are enchanted in some way, have magical powers, undergo transformations, have magic objects, grant wishes, and/or use trickery. As a secondary activity, students can recatorgorize the stories from activity #1 into the categories of common motifs or patterns.

Gods and Goddesses — Activity Card 3

Using the myths from activity #1, review some of the major gods and goddesses. Make a list of some of the gods and goddesses that are in the stories.

American Indian	Greek and Roman	Scandinavian
_____	_____	Thor-king of the gods
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Name_____Section_____

Teacher Notes for Activity Card #3: Students should form groups and share myths that they have read in previous studies. Students should try to fill in at least 4 in each category.

Modern Myth Makers — Activity Card 4

Modern myths tell the adventures of familiar heroes such as Batman and Wonder Woman. Make a list of some heroes in your world. Name one hero (living). Jot down some significant ideas that would explain his/her significance in your life. Tell about some event that you have shared together.

Jot List

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name_____Section_____

Teacher Notes for Activity Card #4: Have the students jot ideas on the card as a prewriting exercise for a biography of someone who is heroic in their eyes. The student should be able to convince others that this person is heroic. Use the following steps for writing. *1. Write a first draft.* Present the information in a clear, organized way. *2. Revise.* Read your writing out loud to a partner. *3. Proofread.* Check your writing for correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. *4. Rewrite.* Make final copy of your biography.

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adapted from the *Ramayana*

Developing Skills Through Literature

Pre-Reading Exercise

Different cultures place high values on different human qualities. From your reading, try to find some of the values that people from India think are important.

Before Reading
Read the introduction of "The Story of Rama." What do you think Rama will be like?

During Reading
How does Rama feel about Sita? Do his feelings change as you read on?

After Reading
Why do you think Rama felt the way he did about Sita?

Did Rama do anything that surprised you? What personal quality do you think that Rama admired? What characteristics of people are rewarded? Punished? Do these differ from yours? If so, how?

_____

_____

_____

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Skill #2 **Name**_____ **Section**_____

Character and Symbolism

Imagine that a friend of yours has asked you to describe how characters in myths can be symbols. Since your friend already knows the major stories in the *Ramyana* you decide to use its characters as examples. Fill in the chart below to use in your explanation.

Character	What the Character Looks Like	What the Character Symbolizes
Ravana	He has ten heads and twenty arms. Battle scares were on his huge imposing person. Continue.	**evil, greed, deception, brute strength, arrogance**
Rama		
Sita		
Lakshmana		
Ravana's Sister		
Hanuman		

Place a (+) in front of the characters who are symbols of *positive traits* and a (-) in front of those characters with *negative traits*.

How does the *symbolism* of characters in this myth help you understand the *theme* of deception or the theme versus good and evil? Explain your answer._____

_____

Use the back of the sheet or attach another sheet.

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Skill #3 **Name**_____**Section**_____

Values and Themes in Mythical Tales

Remember that in myths, a character's actions may reveal a theme or the values of a culture. Complete the chart by using the events from "The Story of Prince Rama." Read the theme or value in the left column and then find an event in the book that illustrates the theme or value.

Themes or Values	Event
Natural beauty can be dangerous.	
Not everything is as it appears	
Rewards came only after difficult times.	
Good triumphs over evil.	
Good people are sometimes misunderstood.	

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Skill #4 Name Section

The Story of Prince Rama
Ways of Deception

Ways of Deception: **Who are the evil characters in this story? How do they use deception to try to get their way? Complete the list of deceptions and give an example for each method.**

1. Lying: _____

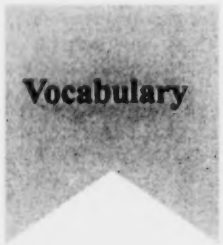
2. Disguise: _____

3. Cheating: _____

4. _____**:** _____

5. _____**:** _____

6. _____**:** _____



Select 10 of the italicized words in the Ramyana. Write each one. Then write a definition of each one in the space provided.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

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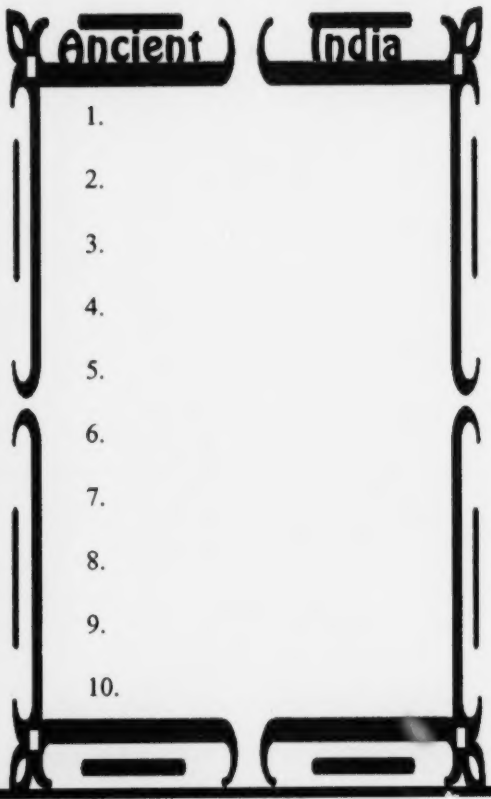
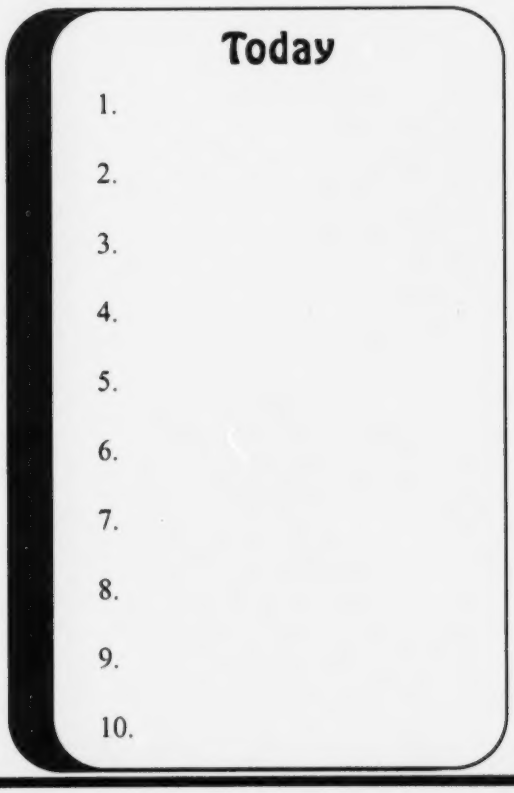
The Making of a Hero in Ancient India

In the box below are listed some qualities that might be considered necessary for a leader. Add your ideas. Keep adding to this list as you talk to those around you or watch TV.

MALE		FEMALE
patience	ability to listen	attractiveness
bravery	honesty	tact
loyalty	mercy	aggressiveness
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Make two lists using the words above. For the first list, choose the 10 qualities that you think would have been needed for good leadership in ancient India. For the second list, choose 10 qualities that are needed for good leadership in the United States. *Prioritize* your list. Write the qualities from the most important (1) to the least important (10).





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Skill #6 **Name**_____ **Section**_____

Reporting the News

Write an article about the heroic acts of one of the characters in *The Story of Rama*. Select a scene and create a news story. Draw a picture of the event. Create a headline

In this issue

Heroism

The Hindu Chronicle

Vol. 1 No. 1 **India** **January**

Headline (subject and verb)

Photo Caption

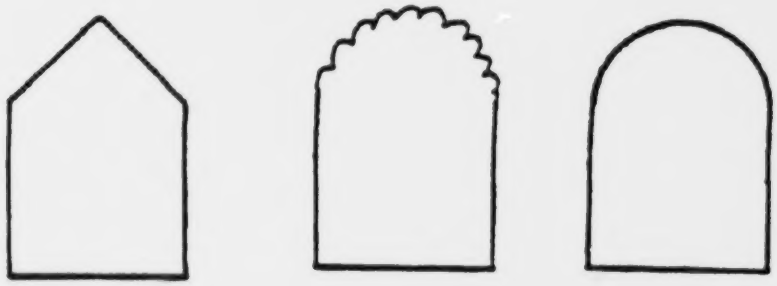
Created by Charlotte Byrd, 1995

SNAPPY SCENES

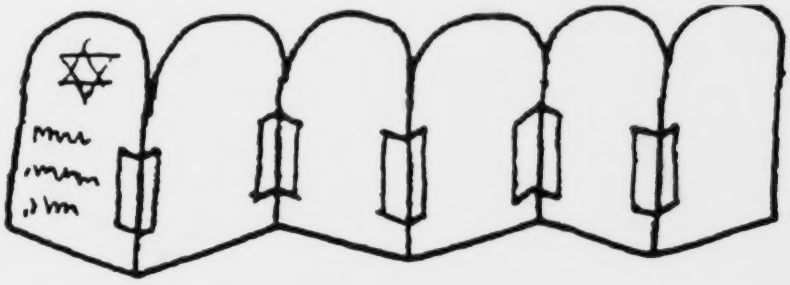
Make a list of the scenes that you think are most important to the development of the story. Could it be the Rama bending the sacred bow? Or Sita being kidnapped? Which would you choose?

Make an accordion book that presents these scenes.

1. Cut six pieces of cardboard, construction paper, or tagboard into shapes approximately 8" X 5". You may select different designs to individualize your **Snappy Scenes.** Design a scene on each piece and write a short summary of the scene.



2. Tape the six pieces together at the sides as in the diagram. Use mending tape on both sides to strengthen the illustrations.

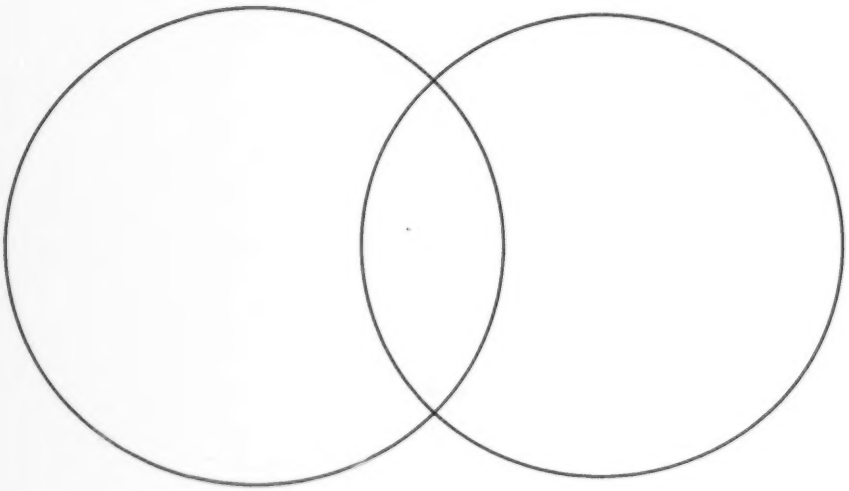


Tape both Sides

3. Display your accordion book report for the class.

Skill #8 **Name**_____ **Section**_____

VENN DIAGRAM



Compare:_____

Directions: You might use this diagram to compare:

Two myths: *The Story of Rama* and *Theseus and the Minataur*
Two characters: Rama and Ravana
Two groups: the rakshasas and the holy men
Two female characters: Sita and Ravana's sister
Two mythical heroes: Rama and Hercules

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Skill #9 **Name**_____ **Section**_____

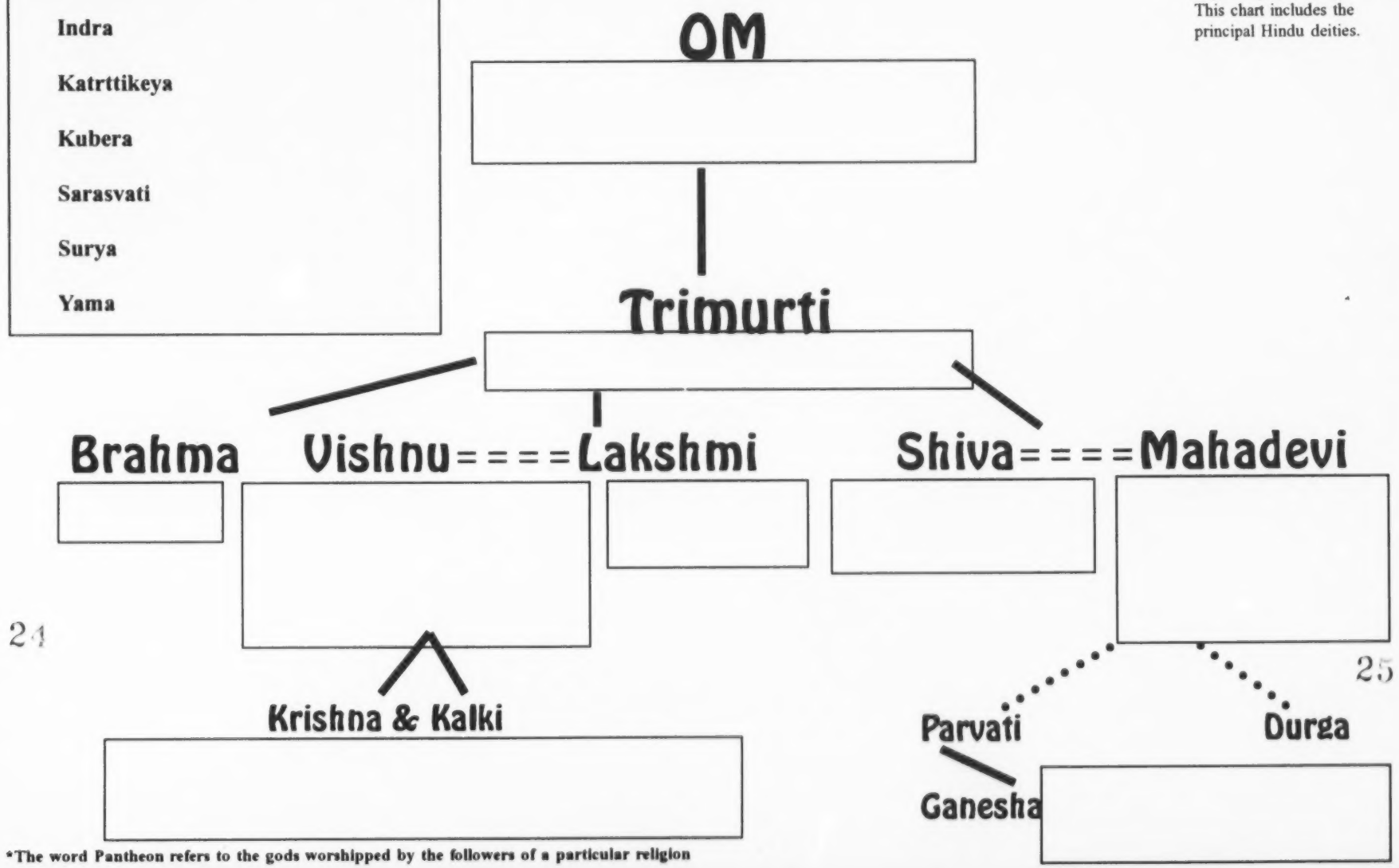
Other Hindu Dieties

- **Agni**
- **Ganga**
- **Hanuman**
- **Indra**
- **Katrttikeya**
- **Kubera**
- **Sarasvati**
- **Surya**
- **Yama**

Fill in the each box by researching the following dieties.

The Hindu Pantheon*

Note: **There are many Hindu sects, and the deities worshipped by them differ. To explain this, Hindus often say that since god exists in all life, the Absolute One takes many names and representations depending on the sect. This chart includes the principal Hindu deities.**



*The word Pantheon refers to the gods worshipped by the followers of a particular religion

Skill #9 **Name**_____ **Section**_____

Other Hindu Dieties

Agni The god of fire.
Ganga A goddess and the most sacred river in India
Hanuman The monkey god who aided the hero Rama
Indra The god or war, rain, and thunder;
Katrttikeya The god of war; also know as Skanda.
Kubera The god of riches
Sarasvati The goddess of knowledge.
Surya The god of the sun
Yama The god of death and the underworld

Information rom Calliope, "Hinduism," Vol. 3, No. 4, March/April 1993

The Hindu Pantheon*

Note: There are many Hindu sects, and the deities worshipped by them differ. To explain this, Hindus often say that since god exists in all life, the **Absolute One** takes many names and representations depending on the sect. This chart includes the principal Hindu deities.

OM

The holiest of Hindu words. It consists of three sounds (A-U-M) and is said to represent the Trimurti. All music has the background sound of OM.

Trimurti

Symbolizes the three principle fources (all of them divine that the Absolute One contains.

Brahma

The creative force; the god of creation

Vishnu = = = = Lakshmi

The preserving force; the god who preserves and maintains life. Vishnu rides **Garuda**, who is half bird, half man. Vishnu has nine avatars, or forms--one for each time he descended to earth to resue it from great danger. Two of his most famous avatars are:

The consort of Vishnu; the goddess of wealth, beaauty, and good luck.

Shiva = = = = Mahadevi

The destructive force; the god of life, death, and rebirth. His chief attendant is **Nandi**, the white bull.

The wife of Shiva; the "Great Goddess" who has many forms, including her active form of **Durga** and her passive form of Parvati. As **Parvati**, she became the mother of **Ganesha** and **Karttikeya**.

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Krishna & Kalki

Krishna, the teacher of Arjuna in the *Bhagavad Gita*, part of the *Mahabharata*, and **Rama**, the hero of the *Ramayana*. Vishnu will use the tenth avatar, **Kalki**, when he comes to destroy the world because of widespread corruption and evil. Vishnu will then rebuild the world.

Parvati

Durga

Ganesha

Son of Shiva and Parvati; god of wisdom and good beginnings and the symbol of good luch and wealth. Ganesha is often pictured riding a rat.

*The word **Pantheon** refers to the gods worshipped by the followers of a particular religion

Skill # 10 Name_____Section_____

The Story of Prince Rama
Protagonist--Antagonist

Cut each of the strips along the dotted line. Give out the strips to the students and have them create a different and new story based on the strip of information they are given based on *The Story of Rama.*

PROTAGONIST	ANTAGONIST	SETTING	POINT OF
Tadaka	Rama	Forest of Dandaka	Victory for Rama
Ravana	Rama	Janaka's Palace	Wins Sita for his Wife
Demon Warrior	Lakshmana	Forest	Sita is saved
Ravana	Hanuman	Palace in Lanka	Sita found

Who is the:

Protagoist?_____

Antagonist?_____

Where is the setting?_____

What is the point of the myth?_____

_____

Here is a description of the basic conflict between my protagonist and antagonist_____

_____

_____

_____

Here's what happened to the antagonist and the protagonist when placed in the setting and plot point I was given._____

_____

_____

_____

The probable outcome of my story will be _____

_____

_____

_____

Created by Charlotte Byrd, 1995

The Story of Prince Rama

adapted from the Ramayana

Developing Skills Through Theme Projects

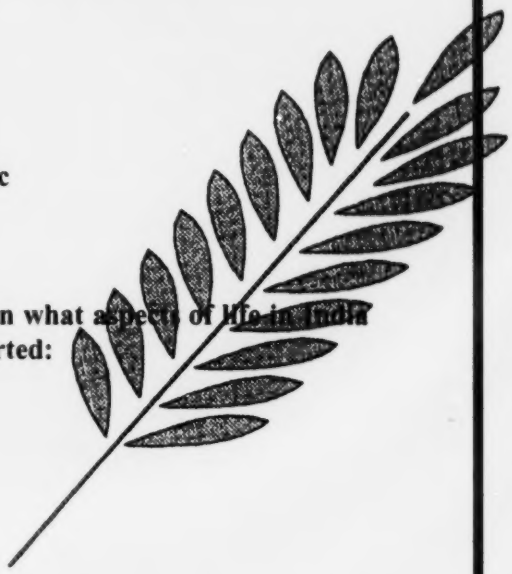
Bringing India to Life

Choosing and Planning

When you read a myth, such as the *Ramyana*, the story takes place a long time ago, in strange or different places. The characters are often set in places that are also unfamiliar to the reader. In order to better understand the story, the reader must do some research that will help to provide a clear and accurate picture of daily life in a past time.

For this project you will work with partners to create an interesting representation of daily life in ancient India. You and your partners will need to

- **decide which aspects of daily life to cover**
- **gather information**
- **prepare a visual demonstration for each topic**
- **organize and present the project**



Get together with you group members and plan what aspects of life in India that you will cover. Use the check list to get you started:

- ☐ **food and eating habits**
- ☐ **homes and furnishings**
- ☐ **clothing**
- ☐ **entertainment**
- ☐ **family life--in the city, in the village**
- ☐ **women**
- ☐ **gods and goddesses--religion**
- ☐ **other** _____

Created by Charlotte Byrd, 1995

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Once you have decided on the topics which you will investigate, think about interesting ways to display your information. Which of these might work well?

- ☐ bulletin board display
- ☐ Indian meal
- ☐ drama presentation
- ☐ scale models
- ☐ songs and dances
- ☐ puppets

What other ideas do you (and your group) have for a presentation? _____

_____

_____

PIT STOP (Putting It Together)

Once you have your topic, start gathering information. What subjects will you look up in the card or computer catalog at the library. Where could you go on Wide World Web?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Organizing Information

How will you put your notes together?

- ☐ according to an outline of the main topics
- ☐ by categories
- ☐ chronologically
- ☐ by comparisons and contrasts
- ☐ with questions and answers
- ☐ with charts, tables, and graphs
- ☐ other

Create a Hero Comic Book

Choosing and Planning

Choose one of the episodes from the *Ramyana* and turn it into an action packed comic book.

Begin your research.

Reread the story. Jot down any the adventures that you wish to include that might lend themselves to cartoons.

Start to lay out the cartoon by making a frame-by-frame plan by describing the action in each frame.

Frame 1	**Frame 2**	**Frame 3**

Look at comic strips to see how dialogue, thoughts, and narration are shown. Make sure not to plan to much violence in your cartoons. Then begin to work on your own.

- **What details will each frame include? Check clothing and hairstyles.**
- **What words will each *speech* balloon contain?**
- **What words will the *thought* balloons contain.**
- **What words will the boxes of narration contain?**

Develop a frame-by-frame plan more fully.

HAGAR

Presenting Your Project

- Establish a lending library of *Ramyana* cartoon books.
- Give a talk about your comic book.
- Create a library display for other classes to see.

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